

Message Text

SECRET

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63

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 181008Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0277

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3027

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, US, BA, KU

SUBJ: RETAINING MIDDLE EAST FORCE IN BAHRAIN

REF: MANAMA 0519

1. IF DEPT CONCURS I WOULD BE PERFECTLY PREPARED ASK FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD FOR KUWAITI VIEWS ON MID EASTFOR IN BAHRAIN AND, IF HIS ANSWER IS NEGATIVE, INDICATE IN NICE WAY WE DO NOT AGREE AND WOULD APPRECIATE KUWAIT'S NOT TRYING INFLUENCE GOB AGAINST MIDEASTFOR REMAINING IN BAHRAIN.

2. WHEN ONE THINKS OF WHERE ACTIVE KUWAITI OPPOSITION TO MIDEASTFOR MIGHT BE COMING FROM, ONE'S MIND TURNS IMMEDIATELY TO CP/PM JABER AL-AHMAD. HE NURSES A KEEN SENSITIVITY TO WHAT HE SEES AS CONSTANT THREAT OF "BIG POWER RIVALRY" IN GULF. (IT OCCURS TO ME IRAQIS AND SOVIETS ARE ALSO NOT ABOVE SEEDING THOUGHT IN HIS MIND THAT IF GOK COULD INDUCE GOB TO REMOVE MIDEASTFOR, IRAQ WOULD PERHAPS NOT NEED SO MUCH KUWAITI TERRITORY TO PROTECT SOUTHERN FLANK OF UMM QASR PORT; AND RUSSIAN WARSHIPS WOULD NOT HAVE TO VISIT NORTHERN GULF SO OFTEN.)

3. I NEVERTHELESS CONCLUDE THAT ON BALANCE I THINK WE SHOULD INDICATE TO KUWAITIS US INTEREST IN MIDEASTFOR REMAINING IN BAHRAIN -- AND THE SOONER, PROBABLY, THE BETTER.

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STOLTZFUS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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